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Statistical Commission

Report on the thirty-eighth session (27 February to 2 March 2007)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

The thirty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Commission. In his opening remarks, the newly elected chairperson underlined the strong professional leadership that had been provided by the Commission in building the global statistical system in the past 60 years. In their statements, the members of the Commission unanimously shared that sentiment and highlighted as key achievements of the Commission the creation of a body of global statistical standards and guidelines and a culture of close international cooperation in statistics based on shared professional ethics among the heads of national statistical offices. The members cited concrete examples of how the work of the Commission had assisted countries in building national statistical systems, especially in the context of decolonization and the transition to market economies and in post-conflict situations. The important role of the Commission as a forum in which to share practical experiences in the development of national statistics was repeatedly stressed. The members also acknowledged the support provided by the United Nations Statistics Division and expressed their gratitude for the organization by the Division of a number of special commemorative events. Strengthening the autonomy and independence of official statistics at the national level and maintaining the technical focus of the work of the Commission at the global level were underscored as the key conditions for the successes of the past and in the future.

As a primary concern of the Commission was to make nationally produced statistical data comparable internationally through the development of conceptual and methodological standards, the Commission had continued its technical work in that area by adopting two statistical norms: (a) the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*; and (b) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water. It had also continued its technical discussions in the areas of national accounts, leading up to revised future standards in those fields. The Commission had also reviewed current activities in the fields of education statistics, agricultural statistics, disability measurement, information and communication technology statistics, international economic and social classifications, the management of national statistical systems and the International Comparison Programme, and it had provided guidance for future work in those areas.

The Commission recognized the need for continuous improvement of the statistics required to track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The heads of national statistical offices again stressed the importance of statistical capacity-building, requesting that all stakeholders, particularly international organizations, give due consideration to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity. The Commission recognized that donor coordination was of importance and should be further enhanced.

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-eighth session;

(b) Decides that the thirty-ninth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 26 to 29 February 2008;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Programme review: employment statistics.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(b) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

Documentation

Report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

(c) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

(d) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(f) Statistics of drugs and drug use.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Round Table on Business Survey Frames;

Documentation

Report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames

(c) International merchandise trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

(d) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

(e) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Services Statistics

(f) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Joint Report of the Secretary-General and the World Tourism Organization

(g) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(h) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

(i) Statistics of science and technology;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(j) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

(k) Integrated economic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(l) Short-term economic indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(m) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(n) Distributive-trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(o) Agricultural statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income

6. National resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics

(b) Environmental-economic accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Statistics of human development;

Documentation

Report of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme

(c) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Coordination of ongoing methodological work;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Principles governing international statistical activities.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

38/101
Programme review: education statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the report of Statistics Canada on education statistics,[1] took note of the recommendations contained therein and requested Statistics Canada to provide the full report to all members and observers of the Commission;

(b) Agreed to set up a task force on education statistics comprising interested countries and agencies and asked the UNESCO Institute for Statistics to be the convener of the task force;

(c) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, interested countries and agencies, to prepare the draft terms of reference of the task force and to submit them to the Bureau of the Commission for approval. The terms of reference could include the following tasks:

(i) Further reviewing and analysing the accumulated experience of countries and various agencies;

(ii) Developing a conceptual framework for education statistics that would build on what currently exists and that would suit the needs of developed and developing countries;

(iii) Reviewing the coordination mechanism among relevant agencies and proposing new arrangements, if necessary, to avoid duplication of tasks and to reduce the country response burden;

(d) Welcomed the proposal by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics to organize a working session of interested countries and organizations on education statistics as soon as possible in 2007 in order to provide input to the workplan of the task force;

(e) Requested the task force to develop its workplan and begin its implementation, and to submit a progress report to the Commission in 2008.

38/102
Population and housing censuses

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed and adopted the second revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*[2] and encouraged countries to begin its implementation;

(b) Requested that the text of the revised guidelines be released in all official United Nations languages as soon as possible;

(c) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies to increase their technical assistance to national statistical offices in order

[1] See E/CN.3/2007/2.
[2] See E/CN.3/2007/3.

to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses;

(d) Recognized with appreciation the support being given to countries to implement the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses by the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

38/103
Disability measurement

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics[3] and noted its appreciation of the work carried out by the Group;

(b) Acknowledged the progress made towards the elaboration of a set of census questions on disability based on the World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health;

(c) Endorsed the workplan for 2007, as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report, with particular reference to:

(i) Finalizing the analysis of the test data and short set of questions for use in the population census;

(ii) Addressing the issue of upper body functioning in the set of questions;

(iii) Providing a fully elaborated set of questions to be used in sample surveys;

(d) Encouraged the Washington Group, as part of its follow-up activities, to assist countries in their implementation of recommended questions for the measurement of disability through censuses and surveys;

(e) Requested the Washington Group to collaborate with the World Health Organization in the context of the application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and with the Budapest Initiative on the measurement of health status in order to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of resources.

38/104
Information and communication technology statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Endorsed the core list of information and communication technology indicators as contained in annex II of the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development;[4]

[3] See E/CN.3/2007/4.
[4] See E/CN.3/2007/5.

(b) Congratulated the Partnership on its work and recognized the leadership of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in initiating the Partnership, which had become an example of successful cooperation among international organizations;

(c) Encouraged countries to use the core list of indicators in their data collection programmes;

(d) Recognized that information and communication technology was a rapidly evolving area, and encouraged the Partnership to continue work to improve and update the list of indicators, especially with regard to measuring the use of information and communication technology in education and in government, the contribution of such technology to economic growth and social development, and the barriers to the use of the technology;

(e) Encouraged the Partnership to assist countries in their capacity-building efforts for the collection of data for the information and communication technology indicators.

38/105
Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report on agricultural statistics[5] and the recommendations presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(b) Commended the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the FAOSTAT, CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT databases and encouraged the Organization to further improve those databases, especially with respect to metadata, the transparency of data sources and coordination with regional entities that already collect data in that field;

(c) Endorsed the efforts to explore ways in which the various national census activities, including agricultural and population censuses, could be coordinated to create greater synergy, efficiency and value added between those large statistical exercises;

(d) Supported the view that agricultural statistics needed to be further integrated with other statistical areas, in particular with economic and environment statistics, focusing thereby on outcomes;

(e) Welcomed the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to keep national statistical offices informed and involved in the compilation of agricultural statistics;

(f) Expressed appreciation for the technical assistance on agricultural statistics provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to countries and encouraged the Organization to continue to provide such assistance;

[5] See E/CN.3/2007/6.

(g) Endorsed the creation of a city group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income and welcomed the proposal of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to host the first meeting in Wye;

(h) Agreed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations assessment of the consultation mechanism on agricultural statistics and the replacement of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Agricultural Statistics by the international advisory group on agricultural statistics of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

38/106
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for completing in a transparent manner the recommendations on the 44 issues identified for the update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* and for involving the global statistical community in accordance with the agreed timetable;

(b) Adopted the package of recommendations on the update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* presented by the Intersecretariat Working Group to the Commission, as set out in the background document entitled "The full set of consolidated recommendations", with additional considerations on five issues as set out in sections III.C and III.D of the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts[6] and in the background document containing its supplement;

(c) Emphasized the need to establish guidelines on when to recognize pension entitlements in the core set of accounts, to undertake additional research on the estimation of research and development as capital formation, to provide guidelines taking into consideration the impact of the treatment of goods for processing on input-output analysis and the recording of international trade and to elaborate on the guidelines on the integrated measurement of the informal sector within the national accounts;

(d) Reiterated its request to the Intersecretariat Working Group to submit to the Commission in 2008 a strategy for the implementation of the *System of National Accounts*, based on regional consultations in 2007, reflecting user perspectives and taking into account the different levels of implementation across countries;

(e) Took note that the current update had retained the framework of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* and therefore encouraged countries to continue with the implementation of the *System of National Accounts, 1993*;

(f) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group to act on the concerns raised by the Commission with regard to supporting countries in establishing a basic data collection strategy for the implementation of the *System of National Accounts*, the integration of the informal sector in the national accounts and the need for capacity-building to implement the strategy and recommendations;

[6] See E/CN.3/2007/7.

(g) Underlined the importance of preparing handbooks and manuals with implementation guidance and to enhance capacity-building through training and technical assistance;

(h) Took note of the proposal by the Intersecretariat Working Group to present to the Commission the draft of the update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* in two volumes: volume one, in 2008, comprising a full set of chapters representing the framework in terms of accounting conventions, the accounts, and the integration of the accounts and incorporating the adopted recommendations on the 44 issues; and volume two, in 2009, comprising interpretations of the accounts and extensions such as satellite accounts;

(i) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group to continue to report to the Commission on the progress in the implementation of the *System of National Accounts* by countries, focusing on scope, coverage and quality;

(j) Supported the formation of a high-level group to examine the long-term implications of the *System of National Accounts* and possible future changes, taking into consideration rapid changes in the global economy; the need to balance users' needs, theory and the ability to collect primary data; the choice between imputed versus observable transactions; and the role of satellite accounts vis-à-vis the core accounts; and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group to establish the high-level group and to ensure broad country representation in it.

38/107
Environmental accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting[7] and stressed the importance of the work of the Committee in elevating the level of the *Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting 2003* to that of an international statistical standard based on an agreed issues list and taking into consideration consistency with the revision of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* and other revised macroeconomic standards;

(b) Adopted part 1 of the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water as an interim international statistical standard, recognizing significant demand from the users' community, and encouraged its implementation in countries;

(c) Requested that the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water be re-evaluated by the Commission at the time the revised *Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting* is submitted to the Commission for adoption as an international statistical standard;

(d) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to develop and submit to the next Statistical Commission an implementation strategy for the System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water, taking into account the fact that

[7] See E/CN.3/2007/9.

countries were at different stages of development of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting;

(e) Called upon countries and international agencies to allocate sufficient resources to the revision of the *Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting 2003* in their work programme in view of the urgent need for that revision;

(f) Requested the Committee of Experts to develop and submit to the next Statistical Commission a project management framework for the revision of the *Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting. 2003* and to report on progress;

(g) Called upon the Committee of Experts to continue, within its mandate, to coordinate with the city groups and other expert groups working in environmental-economic accounting and related statistics;

(h) Encouraged the United Nations Statistics Division and the Committee of Experts to continue to organize user-producer conferences in order to build on the success of the User-Producer Conference on Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resource Management;

(i) Took note of the results of phase I of the Global Assessment of Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting, confirmed its application for assessing the current and planned scope of implementation of the *Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental-Economic Accounting* in countries and welcomed phase II of the Global Assessment in 2007, with a focus on the specific subject areas identified by countries in phase I.

38/108
International economic and social classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Agreed with the implementation process for the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,[8] especially with regard to the development of user guides and correspondence tables and the provision of technical assistance to countries;

(b) Requested that the timetable presented in paragraph 25 of the report be reviewed, recognizing at the same time the need for flexibility and the wish to advance the suggested implementation target dates;

(c) Requested that correspondence tables between the revised classifications and previous versions be made available as soon as possible;

(d) Encouraged countries to share experiences in the implementation of the revised classifications, noted the interest expressed by India and Japan in assisting other countries in the implementation process of the revised classifications and encouraged other countries to offer their assistance;

[8] See E/CN.3/2007/10.

(e) Agreed with the draft structure of the International Standard Classification of Occupations presented in the background document as a suitable standard for internationally comparable statistics;

(f) Noted that draft definitions of the proposed categories of the International Standard Classification of Occupations as needed for the tripartite meeting when it considers the structure of the Classification late in 2007, and language versions of the Classification were important prerequisites for its successful implementation;

(g) Took note of the forthcoming steps to be taken in the formal process to approve the International Standard Classification of Occupations;

(h) Requested the International Labour Office to report back to the Commission in 2008.

38/109
Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the report prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics[9] laying out principles and guidelines for managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access;

(b) Approved the proposed set of principles and guidelines, underlining the extreme importance of ensuring confidentiality and maintaining public trust;

(c) Recognized the need of national statistical offices to find a proper balance between the importance of access to microdata for statistical analysis and the protection of confidentiality, and also recognized the need for specific training in that respect;

(d) Recognized that success in managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access depended on the size of a country's population, the maturity of a country's statistical system, and the existence of legal arrangements that protected privacy and provided rules governing access to data and whether that was culturally acceptable, so as not to affect negatively cooperation in statistical data collection;

(e) Noting that a number of international agencies and other institutions were serving as data depositories:

(i) Emphasized that countries retained ownership of their submitted data and control over its access;

(ii) Underscored the need for greater transparency in policies governing the release of data by the depositories;

(iii) Encouraged adequate consultation between countries and the depositories on granting access to data.

[9] See E/CN.3/2007/12.

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to collect and to make available best practices relating to managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access and to assist with capacity-building on microdata access practices, as well as with strengthening national statistical offices institutionally to conduct some research in-house and, where applicable, in collaboration with the research community.

38/110
Development indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the work carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators,[10] as well as the improvements made with respect to the Millennium Development Goals indicators website and database, including their presentation and structure;

(b) Recognized the need for continuous improvement in the statistics needed to track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Stressed the need to regionalize some of the global activities so that countries could share their experiences at the regional level;

(d) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division, regional commissions and other international agencies to assist countries in two main areas:

(i) Enabling them to have the necessary data and methodologies to monitor achievements at the country level towards the Millennium Development Goals;

(ii) Facilitating the development of a coordinated reporting mechanism in order to provide a consolidated data set to users and international agencies;

(e) Reiterated the concern on the need to improve communication between countries and international agencies, as well as within the national statistical systems, on the compilation of indicators;

(f) Encouraged international organizations to use national statistical data more extensively and to produce estimates only when national data were not available and requested international agencies to ensure that consultation with countries had taken place prior to dissemination of international Millennium Development Goals figures, especially with respect to imputations of missing data.

38/111
Statistical capacity-building

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening national capacity in statistics[11] and agreed with its recommendations on future steps;

[10] See E/CN.3/2007/13.
[11] See E/CN.3/2007/14.

(b) Recognized that donor coordination was of importance and that the coordination should be further enhanced by making full use of mechanisms already in place to coordinate international assistance initiatives;

(c) Requested the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century to examine whether a new mechanism was required to further enhance coordination in order to gain maximum effectiveness and advocacy for government funding of statistics;

(d) Stressed that capacity-building activities of international agencies at the country level should be demand-driven rather than supply-driven, and that any assistance provided to countries should have a long-term perspective on building their capacity to produce necessary data in a sustainable way rather than an ad-hoc approach limited to finding short-term solutions;

(e) Requested that all stakeholders, particularly international organizations, give due consideration to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity;

(f) Re-emphasized the urgency to assist countries in establishing a mechanism for coordination within the national statistical system and requested the United Nations Statistics Division to propose guidelines for improved coordination;

(g) Welcomed the broad recognition by the donor community at the Third Round Table on Managing for Development Results of the urgent need to increase financing for the development of statistics;

(h) Welcomed the ongoing initiatives of the United Nations Statistics Division, regional commissions and other international agencies to achieve greater coordination in operational activities at the country level.

38/112
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation of the considerable progress in the current round of the International Comparison Programme;[12] commended the Global Office of the International Comparison Programme at the World Bank, the regional coordinators and other institutions involved for their joint efforts as they approached the completion of the 2005 round of global purchasing power parity comparisons based on improved methodology and data quality;

(b) Welcomed the high-level cooperation of 144 countries and the respective regional coordinators participating in the project;

(c) Took note of the publication dates of September 2007 for price-level data for household consumption and December 2007 for the full gross domestic product results;

(d) Urged the World Bank to derive maximum benefit from the global results by actively engaging users to increase their understanding of the results, thereby

[12] See E/CN.3/2007/15.

raising their awareness of the richness of data produced by the project and promoting the variety of analytical and policy uses of International Comparison Programme data;

(e) Took note of the concern that the forthcoming round of the International Comparison Programme should proceed reasonably quickly so that the investment in the current round would not be lost and so that the International Comparison Programme would be aligned with the consumer price index data collection to the maximum extent possible;

(f) Agreed to the creation of a friends of the chair group to evaluate the current International Comparison Programme with respect to its scope and activities and to make a proposal on the desirability of a new round of the Programme, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the evaluation, and to report back to the Commission in 2008;

(g) Encouraged the World Bank and its international partners actively to seek funding in order to be able to maintain a core capacity as developed during the current round of the International Comparison Programme.

38/113
Programme questions: United Nations Statistics Division

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division[13] and approved the following changes to the programme of work of the Division for 2007:

(i) To replace the United Nations Statistics Division newsletter with multiple newsletters that focus on different substantive areas and provide more targeted information to colleagues throughout the world;

(ii) To defer the manual on waste statistics to the 2008-2009 programme cycle.

38/114
Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2007-2010

The Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2007-2010[14] as orally amended.

38/115
Documents considered by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports which were before it at its thirty-eighth session:

Report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics[15]

[13] See chap. IV, para. 3.
[14] See E/CN.3/2007/29.

Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics[16]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics[17]

Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics[18]

Report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics[19]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics[20]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics[23]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century[25]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata[26]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[27]

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009[28]

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[15] E/CN.3/2007/8.
[16] E/CN.3/2007/16.
[17] E/CN.3/2007/17.
[18] E/CN.3/2007/18.
[19] E/CN.3/2007/19.
[20] E/CN.3/2007/20.
[21] E/CN.3/2007/21.
[22] E/CN.3/2007/22.
[23] E/CN.3/2007/23.
[24] E/CN.3/2007/24.
[25] E/CN.3/2007/25.
[26] E/CN.3/2007/26.
[27] E/CN.3/2007/27.
[28] E/CN.3/2007/28.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: education statistics

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada on education statistics (E/CN.3/2007/2).

2. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Canada made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Ukraine and the United States of America and by the observers for Australia, New Zealand and Norway. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. The observers for the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development also made statements.

5. At the same meeting, the Chairperson, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and the representative of Canada responded to points made and the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda.

7. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Canada, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/101).

B. Population and housing censuses

8. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2007/3).

9. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, and the representative of Canada made introductory statements.

10. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, Ukraine, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, Jamaica and the United Kingdom and by the observers for Peru, Egypt, Suriname, Lebanon, the Niger, New Zealand, Morocco and Madagascar.

11. At the same meeting, the representatives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Africa and the observer for the Commonwealth of Independent States also made statements.

12. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

13. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda.

14. At the same meeting, following statements by the representative of the United Kingdom and the observer for Suriname, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/102).

C. Disability measurement

15. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/4).

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the United States made an introductory statement.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the observers for the Philippines, Italy, Australia, Ireland, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, the Niger, Botswana and India. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

18. Also at the 2nd meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Labour Organization.

19. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

20. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda.

21. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/103).

D. Information and communication technology statistics

22. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the

Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2007/5).

23. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Finland, Cuba, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia and the Republic of Korea and by the observers for Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Spain, Rwanda, Australia and India.

25. Also at the 2nd meeting, the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia made a statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and the Latin American Integration Association.

27. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

28. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda.

29. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Cuba and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/104).

E. Agricultural statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2007/6).

31. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made an introductory statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Japan, Finland, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the United States, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany, Canada, China, Cuba and Mauritania and by the observers for the Philippines, Rwanda, Australia, Turkey, Brazil, Morocco, Italy, Uganda, Mongolia, Malawi, India, Kazakhstan and Peru. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

33. Also at the 2nd meeting, the observers for the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made statements.

34. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda.

36. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/105).

F. National accounts

37. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings on 27 and 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2007/7).

38. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division and the representative of the International Monetary Fund made introductory statements.

39. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Canada.

40. At the 3rd meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Germany, China, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Jamaica and Mauritania and by the observers for Cameroon, Saint Lucia, the Philippines, Denmark, Norway, Iraq, Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Slovenia, India, Switzerland, Pakistan and New Zealand. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund and by the observers for the European Central Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

42. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

43. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda.

44. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany, the United States and Finland and by the observers for Morocco and Iraq, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/106).

G. Integrated economic statistics

45. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2007/8).

46. At the 3rd meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Economics Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, made an introductory statement.

Action taken by the Commission

47. At its 3rd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2007/8) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

H. Environmental accounting

48. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2007/9).

49. At the 3rd meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, and the representative of Germany made introductory statements.

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of China, Finland, Canada, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and the United States and by the observers for Australia, Morocco, Italy, Norway and Côte d'Ivoire.

51. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representative of Germany and by the observer for the Niger. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

52. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Commission.

53. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

54. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda.

55. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/107).

I. International economic and social classifications

56. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2007/10) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Office updating the International Standard Classification of Occupations (E/CN.3/2007/11).

57. At the 4th meeting, on 28 February, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, who introduced document E/CN.3/2007/10.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Hungary, the Republic of Korea and Cuba and by the observers for New Zealand and India.

59. Also at the 4th meeting, the observer for the European Commission made a statement.

60. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

61. Also at the 4th meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization, who introduced document E/CN.3/2007/11.

62. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Australia.

63. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

64. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda.

65. At the same meeting, following a statement by the observer for Australia, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 37/108).

J. Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata

66. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on principles and guidelines for managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access (E/CN.3/2007/12).

67. At the 4th meeting, on 28 February, the observer for Australia made an introductory statement.

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Cuba, Colombia, Japan, the United Kingdom, Mauritania and the United States and by the observers for Suriname, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Ecuador, Chile, India, Uganda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Cameroon and Egypt. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

69. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe and by the observer for the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries.

70. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

71. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda.

72. At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for Suriname and New Zealand, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/109).

K. Development indicators

73. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2007/13).

74. At the 4th meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, United Nations Statistics Division, made an introductory statement.

75. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Ukraine and Germany and by the observer for Pakistan on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

76. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and by the observers for the Philippines, the Niger, Brazil, Egypt, Cameroon and Italy.

77. At the same meeting, the Chairperson made a statement.

78. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

79. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda.

80. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Canada and Cuba and the observers for the Niger and Brazil, as well as by the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/110).

L. Statistical capacity-building

81. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening national capacity in statistics (E/CN.3/2007/14).

82. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, United Nations Statistics Division, made an introductory statement.

83. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the United Kingdom, Mauritania and the Russian Federation and by the observers for Cameroon, Morocco, Suriname, Thailand, Australia, Uganda, Sweden, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Guyana, Senegal, Nepal, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Jordan.

84. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and by the observers for the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.

85. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

86. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda.

87. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States and Cuba and the observer for Suriname, as well as by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Labour Organization and the observer for the Economic Community of West African States, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/111).

M. International Comparison Programme

88. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2007/15).

89. At the 4th meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

90. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and Canada and by the observers for Australia, India, the Niger, Mongolia and Ghana.

91. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observers for the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

92. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

93. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda.

94. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States, Cuba and Canada and the observers for Suriname and India, as well as by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/112).

Chapter III
Items for information

A. Migration statistics

1. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 2nd meeting on 27 February 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2007/16).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2007/16) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

B. Health statistics

3. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th meeting on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/17).

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

C. Industrial statistics

5. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2007/18).

6. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, a statement was made by the representative of Japan.

Action taken by the Commission

7. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2007/18) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

D. Distributive-trade statistics

8. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics (E/CN.3/2007/19).

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics (E/CN.3/2007/19) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

E. Energy statistics

10. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/20) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/21).

Action taken by the Commission

11. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/20) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

F. Finance statistics

12. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/22).

Action taken by the Commission

13. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

G. Price statistics

14. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/23).

15. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the observers for Saint Lucia and Suriname.

Action taken by the Commission

16. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

H. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

17. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2007/24*) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2007/25).

18. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representative of France and by the observer for the Niger.

Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2007/24*) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2007/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

I. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata (E/CN.3/2007/26).

Action taken by the Commission

21. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata (E/CN.3/2007/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

J. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2007/27).

Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2007/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.3/2007/28).

2. At the 6th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an oral report on the current activities, plans and priorities of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (see para. 2, above) and approved the revisions made by the Director to the programme of work of the Division for 2007 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/113). The Commission also took note of the note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.3/2007/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting on 2 March 2007. It had before it the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2007/L.2) and a note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2007-2010 (E/CN.3/2007/29), which were introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch, United Nations Statistics Division.

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany and Canada and by the observer for Switzerland, to which the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth session as orally amended and entrusted the Bureau to streamline and finalize it. The Commission also decided to recommend it, as orally amended, to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its thirty-ninth session should be held from 26 to 29 February 2008 (see chap. I, sect. A).

5. Also at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2007, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2007-2010 as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/114).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting on 2 March 2007.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.3/2007/L.3), together with an informal text of decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom, Cuba, Germany, the United States and Finland and by the observers for Suriname, Morocco, Iraq, Australia, New Zealand, the Niger, Brazil and India.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, as well as by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe. The observer for the Economic Community of West African States also made a statement.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division responded to points raised.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 6th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions therein, as orally amended, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to 2 March 2007. The Commission held 6 meetings (1st to 6th).

2. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Chairman made an opening statement in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Commission. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Finland, China, South Africa, Hungary, Jamaica, Germany and Canada.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2007/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Gilberto Calvillo Vives (Mexico)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)
Pali Lehohla (South Africa)
Xie Fuzhan (China)

Rapporteur:
Peter Pukli (Hungary)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.3/2007/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: education statistics;
   (b) Population and housing censuses;

(c) Disability measurement;

(d) Information and communication technology (ICT) statistics;

(e) Agricultural statistics;

(f) National accounts;

(g) Integrated economic statistics;

(h) Environmental accounting;

(i) International economic and social classifications;

(j) Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata;

(k) Development indicators;

(l) Statistical capacity-building;

(m) International Comparison Programme.

4. Items for information:

(a) Migration statistics;

(b) Health statistics;

(c) Industrial statistics;

(d) Distributive-trade statistics;

(e) Energy statistics;

(f) Finance statistics;

(g) Price statistics;

(h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(i) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

(j) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session contained in document E/CN.3/2007/L.1 as orally amended.

7. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at the thirty-eighth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, European Central Bank, Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne, and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-eighth session are listed in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its thirty-eighth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.3/2007/2	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada on education statistics
E/CN.3/2007/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses
E/CN.3/2007/4	3 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics
E/CN.3/2007/5	3 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development
E/CN.3/2007/6	3 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural statistics
E/CN.3/2007/7	3 (f)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts
E/CN.3/2007/8	3 (g)	Report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics
E/CN.3/2007/9	3 (h)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
E/CN.3/2007/10	3 (i)	Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/2007/11	3 (i)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Office on updating the International Standard Classification of Occupations
E/CN.3/2007/12	3 (j)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on principles and guidelines for managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access
E/CN.3/2007/13	3 (k)	Report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals
E/CN.3/2007/14	3 (l)	Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening national capacity in statistics
E/CN.3/2007/15	3 (m)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme
E/CN.3/2007/16	4 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2007/17	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics
E/CN.3/2007/18	4 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics
E/CN.3/2007/19	4 (d)	Report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics
E/CN.3/2007/20	4 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on energy statistics
E/CN.3/2007/21	4 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics
E/CN.3/2007/22	4 (f)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics
E/CN.3/2007/23	4 (g)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics
E/CN.3/2007/24*	4 (h)	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
E/CN.3/2007/25	4 (h)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century
E/CN.3/2007/26	4 (i)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
E/CN.3/2007/27	4 (j)	Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/2007/28	5	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009
E/CN.3/2007/29	6	Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2007-2010
E/CN.3/2007/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
E/CN.3/2007/L.2	6	Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission
E/CN.3/2007/L.3	7	Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session

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